

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order: The Parks and Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 West 15th Street, Rushville. President David Hasecuster called the meeting to order. Members present were Denny Corn, Jack Harmon, Wilma Jo Kile and Tim Shuppert. Jan Voiles was absent. Also present were Parks Director Danny Mathews, Mayor Bob Bridges, Secretary Carla Sharpe, Attorney Julie Newhouse, Pool Manager Anita Carfield and representatives from the various ball leagues.

Minutes: Minutes of January 9, 2007 was presented for approval. Harmon moved to approve minutes for the month. Corn seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.
There was no meeting in February due to snow storm. No February minutes to approve.

Reports: Pool Manager Carfield gave the following report:
Jean and I conducted interviews the past two weeks and have come to a decision for our employees for the 2007 season pending your approval. Returning for the fourth year as lifeguard will be Katie Alspaugh. Returning for the third year is Keith Brashaber, Emily Kemple, and Nathan Talbott. Returning for the second year as lifeguards are Marcus Gordon, Samatha Bostic, Mitch Lohman, Marissa Coffin, Jessica Mahan and Sarah Carfield. Moving from the position of concessions to lifeguard pending certification will be Chase Sullivan, Julie Brashaber and Erica Evans. New hires, pending certification, for the position of lifeguard are Hillary Orme, Amanda Miller, Trae Martindale, Adam Holstein, Caleb Drake, Michael Winkler and Allie Northcutt.

The position of concessions and front counter will have all new employees. They include Sarah Fey, Hannah Kaster, Kayla Alexander, Jeff Lockwood, Cassi Gordon, Brandon Meyer and Leah Connolly.

We hired a few additional lifeguards and concession workers due to our past experiences where employees may leave or be dismissed mid-season. Although we do not anticipate this, we feel it is better to be prepared. Even though we will have more employees on staff, we will not work any more than three concession/front counter workers per day and nine guards per day as we have always done in the past.

We talked at the close of last year about different forms for patrons to complete for season passes. Carfield then passed out samples for all to look at.

Carfield then stated they are looking forward to a great season and warm weather.

Hasecuster moved to table the passes at this time for board's review. Sharpe is to put this on next month's agenda.

Kile moved to approve the above list of employees for the swimming pool. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

Mathews reported that spring is coming and he would like to hire Becky Bates to fill Kathy Brown's place to plant flowers. She will start the middle of April and work till the end of summer. 15-20 hours a week. Corn moved to hire Becky Bates to take care of the flowers for the summer. Kile seconded. Motion carried.

Mathews stated he has not interviewed his summer help yet but is planning on hiring a lot of his help back from last year.

Mathews reported he is now working on Relay for Life.

Claims: Reviewed prior to meeting by Harmon and Kile. Kile moved to approve claims for the month. Harmon seconded the motion with the stipulation we find out why the water bill is so high at the swimming pool when the pool is closed. Motion carried. Claims approved.
There was no meeting in February due to bad weather. Hasecuster, Corn and Harmon came into City Hall and reviewed February claims and approved them for payment.

Unfinished Business:

Discuss Ball League Information/Leases – Sharpe read a fax she received from Rush County Youth Football. It is their desire at this time to remove the lease in place on the property across from St. Mary's School on 5th Street. We do not plan on investing the \$500 needed to improve the facility at this time. It is our desire that this property be utilized by the city and made available for other community groups to use. Sincerely, Chris Makowski, President of Rush County Youth Football.
Corn asked Mathews what he would like to do with that field. Mathews stated he would like to remove the concessions from the shelter house and begin to rent that shelter house out again. He would also like to remove the old fencing.

Harmon stated he feels we need to leave the field alone, get the word out and see if there would be any other interest from someone else for this field.

Mathews was given permission to remove the old fencing and that if anyone is interested in using this field in Community Park off of 5th and Fort Wayne Road they are to let Mathews know.

Hasecuster explained to the various ball leagues present that the reason for this meeting is to inform the leagues that in order to play ball this year we need a start time, list of officers, a signed lease, proof of insurance, \$1.00 for Security Deposit and a \$500.00 maintenance fee or \$500 in receipts showing improvements. These items all need to be taken care of before April in order for your league to play ball this year.

Fred Stevens with the Rushville Youth Baseball League signed his Lease Agreement, paid his \$1.00 Security Deposit, provided proof of insurance and provided a list of officers. Stevens will pay is \$500 maintenance fee or show proof of maintenance to his field soon.

Cheryl Riggs and Donnie Newbold signed their Rush County Girls Softball League Lease Agreement, paid their \$1.00 Security Deposit, provided proof of insurance for last year and will provide this year's when they get it. They are doing sign up's at the present and will provide the rest of requirements when the new league is formed.

Rush County Schools have signed their lease, provided proof of insurance. They will be providing bills for maintenance to ball diamonds once complete.

Rush County T-Ball League – Ruby Welter was present and stated they are in the process of signing up and will get the info to us once it is available.

Men's Softball League – No one showed up to represent them.

Harmon questioned if labor went towards the maintenance fee. It was decided that we did discuss that last year and yes it would. Harmon feels we should set a standard labor rate. Board agreed.

Fred Stevens provided one quote for work on the dugout at his ball field that had sustained a substantial amount of storm damage. Sharpe advised him he is to get one more quote for the board's review.

It was then discuss who would pay the \$1,000 deductible on the damage. Newhouse stated it was storm damage, an "Act of God", and not the league's responsibility and the City should pay the deductible.

Discuss Costs/Rentals at Old Park Office – Hasecuster shared with the board what it took to keep the old park office open in 2006. Vectren - \$620.93, Duke - \$950.69, Water –\$ 327.47 bringing the total utilities to \$1,899.09.

We rent the park office out now for \$35.00. Mathews has made improvements to the building and by moving the furnace to another room this building will hold up to 40 people now for reunions, showers or a meeting room.

Mathews stated he feels it is a nice public service and don't think there will be any problem renting it out.

Hasecuster said he feels there is adequate parking and close to the pool.

Shuppert stated he feels it is better off shutting the old park office down and using it only for storage.

Harmon asked if we made money on the vending machines. Mathews said no.

Harmon stated it takes 1% of the Parks total budget to run this building which is not generating a lot of money in return.

Kile stated she feels we should not jump to conclusions, she feels if we get the word out that we now have another place to offer for rent besides Booker T., with heat and air, we should see if it is utilized before we jump the gun and just close it.

Shuppert said it is a provision of service to the public.

Kile moved to raise the rent to \$50.00 and see what happens. Shuppert seconded.

Harmon then asked what we can do to get the costs down at the old park office.

Mathews stated it probably costs \$30 or so a month to run the vending machines.

Bridges stated he has been approached by two Council members who feel the building was not good enough for the park office and will not be in favor of spending money on it to rent the building out.

Kile moved to raise the rent to \$50.00 and keep the building for rental use. Shuppert seconded the motion.

Harmon moved to re visit it every few months to see if the building is being used. Motion carried.

Discuss RCCF Grant Application/Handicapped Playground Equipment – Mathews shared with the board that he has applied for a grant with the Rush County Community Foundation for money for handicap playground equipment. It is his understanding that they will know something by March 22nd.

Hasecuster stated he went to the ARC meeting in January and they are interested and willing to help with this piece of equipment. They do make a swing now for wheelchairs. After this piece of equipment is approved and placed ARC wants to hold a Special Olympics at the park.

Sharpe also shared with the board that at the RCCF interview Cindy Sickbert said that if the Parks Board would help with the road blitz on Friday night then that would enable us more money to use on the equipment. They raise \$2,000 on Saturday during the street blitz and if we can raise \$2,000 on Friday that would be more money going towards the playground equipment.

Hasecuster stated that the Knights of Columbus do the street blitz on Friday night and all of their money goes to the ARC.

Amphitheater Update – Sharpe reported the concert dates have been set, sponsors are coming in and to date we have raised \$46,350.00 in sponsorships. Sharpe stated that work is beginning at the Amphitheater, gutters have been installed, the steps from the Flatrock Grill to the Amphitheater is being built as we speak and things are starting to fall into place.

New Business:

Discuss Windows at Booker T. – Hasecuster shared with the board that there are some windows at Booker T. that are in desperate need of being replaced.

Mayor Bridges stated the windows have to be replaced with wood per the Historical Landmarks Association.

Corn stated we need to repair the bad ones and put storm windows in.

Mathews suggested replacing the four worse ones on the south side of the building on the bottom as the back side is the worst.

Sharpe stated there was \$2,910 in the Booker T. Window Fund.

Corn stated that Andersen Replacement Windows are all wood with a vinyl coating on the outside and they will make the windows per kit.

It was decided by the board that Corn will make up specs on the four south side back windows to be replaced with wood and storm windows and Sharpe will send out to the current bidders.

Sharpe is to revisit this at the next meeting.

Items Not Known In Advance:

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

DAVID HASECUSTER, PRESIDENT

JACK HARMON, VICE PRESIDENT

DENY CORN, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

JAN VOILES, MEMBER

TIM SHUPPERT, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY